

bus route. They quickly noticed that the driver was acting erratic, going around corners at a high speed and missing several stops to pick up waiting students.

The school bus ride quickly became dangerous as the bus went over country backroads at speeds up to 80 miles per hour.

Utah Highway Patrol trooper Glenn Begay reports that the bus driver swerved to hit a passing pickup as it turned on to U.S. 491 at the Hunts Club.

Several of the children received minor injuries at that time. The driver of the truck was unhurt. The children report that the accident with the pickup truck was the most

frightening part of the entire incident.

After the accident, Gobble and Walker shuffled the ten elementary school students to the back of the bus as it continued toward Monticello at high speeds. The only high school students on the bus, they told the driver that he would lose his job if he didn't slow down.

The driver reportedly said he would drop off the older students at the high school and take the younger kids to "a special place". However, the high school kids said they would not get off the bus without the younger students.

The bus came into Monticello, made a right turn at high speed

on U.S. 191, and appeared to be heading north out of town. At that time, Gobble reportedly brandished a steel bar and threatened the driver, so the driver turned and headed to the elementary school.

The driver stopped the bus in front of the Monticello LDS Temple, and ran to the gates of the temple grounds. Gobble and Walker hurried the ten students off the bus and made a quick dash to the elementary school.

The young children were traumatized by the incident and elementary school teachers quickly offered assistance to the students, called their parents, and notified law enforcement authorities.

Munson said he had no recollection of the incident when he was arrested. Begay said Munson reported he was under extreme stress and may have just snapped.

The high school students tried to downplay their heroics, saying they had done nothing out of the ordinary. However, officials report that the youth acted beyond their years and that their clear thinking may have saved the lives of the younger students.

Several of the young students were taken to the San Juan Hospital, where they suffered a variety of small injuries, including whiplash and bruises. It was the parents' worst nightmare.

Public meeting set to address Monticello mill tailings ground water plan

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has developed a proposed plan that presents the preferred remedial alternative for Operable Unit III of the Monticello Mill Tailings Site near Monticello, Utah.

DOE will host a public meeting to discuss the alternatives presented in the Proposed Plan at 7 p.m. on December 9, 2003, at the San Juan County Courthouse, 117 South Main Street, in Monticello.

Operable Unit III encompasses contaminated surface water and ground water at an hydraulically downgradient of the former Monticello millsite. Mill tailings, the sandy by-products of uranium and vanadium

ore milling, were transported to downstream areas by water in Montezuma Creek, which flows through the millsite property.

In addition, radioactive and nonradioactive contaminants leached from the on-site tailings into the underlying ground water and have migrated beneath adjacent properties.

DOE believes that monitored natural attenuation with institutional controls provides the best balance of tradeoffs among the cleanup alternatives being considered with respect to the comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) evaluation criteria. Natural attenuation is the decrease in

contaminant concentrations in the ground water over time through the influx of clean water and ground water movement. Ground water samples will be collected and analyzed to track the natural reduction of contaminate concentrations. Institutional controls protect public health and the environment by preventing installation or use of wells in the contaminated ground water.

The public is encouraged to review and comment on the alternatives being considered for Operable Unit III. Written public comments will be accepted until January 15, 2004. Oral and written comments will be accepted at the public meeting.

All comments and DOE's response to each comment will be part of the responsiveness summary in the Record of Decision.

The preferred alternative can change in response to public comments or new information.

Members of the Federal Facilities Agreement for the Monticello Mill Tailings Site will cooperatively make the final decision. It is anticipated that the decision will be signed by April 2004. A copy of the proposal, and other documents related to the Monticello Mill Tailings Site is available for review at the Monticello Repository Office, 7031 South Highway 191, Monticello, UT 84535 (435) 587-2098.

boy • Logan J.
Janiece & Steven Draper
November 11

Weather

	Monticello				Blanding			
	Nov	Hi	Lo	Pr	Hi	Lo	Pr	
17	41	32	.04	45	33	.06		
18	42	22		49	26			
19	49	23		50	30			
20	50	32		54	32			
21	48	32		53	34			
22	44	18	tr.	32	15			
23	23	4		33	9			

Monticello had a trace of snow
November 17 and 22.

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Camp Jack snow report



November 23 snow report
3.1" of water in 11" of snow.
2.3" is multi-year average.
0.0" in 1990, '91, '96 and 2000
is multi-year low.
4.9" in 1992 is multi-year high.
Current snow is 135% of normal

MRAP OUIII AR 674 8-14 PUBLIC MEETING
NEWSPAPER ARTICLE - PUBLIC MEETING SET TO
ADDRESS MILL TAILINGS WATER PLAN 11/26/03

Public Comment Period Begins on DOE Proposed Cleanup Plan for Operable Unit III Surface and Ground Water of the Monticello Mill Tailings Site

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The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has developed a Proposed Plan that presents the preferred remedial alternative for Operable Unit III of the Monticello Mill Tailings Site near Monticello, Utah.

Operable Unit III encompasses contaminated surface water and ground water at and hydraulically downgradient of the former Monticello millsite. Mill tailings, the sandy by-products of uranium and vanadium ore milling, were transported to downstream areas by water in Montezuma Creek, which flows through the millsite property. In addition, radioactive and nonradioactive contaminants leached from the on-site tailings into the underlying ground water and have migrated beneath adjacent properties.

Summary of the Alternatives

The following remedial action alternatives have been evaluated for Operable Unit III:

Alternative 1: No Further Action With Institutional Controls

Alternative 2: Monitored Natural Attenuation With Institutional Controls

Alternative 3: Permeable Reactive Barrier With Institutional Controls and Monitored Natural Attenuation

Alternative 4 (Option 1): Enhanced Permeable Reactive Barrier With Institutional Controls and Monitored Natural Attenuation (pump-and-treat enhancement)

Alternative 4 (Option 2): Enhanced Permeable Reactive Barrier With Institutional Controls and Monitored Natural Attenuation (in situ enhancement)

Preferred Alternative

DOE believes that Alternative 2 provides the best balance of tradeoffs among the alternatives with respect to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) evaluation criteria.

Public Meeting

DOE will sponsor a public meeting to discuss the alternatives presented in the Proposed Plan. Oral and written comments will be accepted at the meeting.

Date: December 9, 2003

Time: 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Place: San Juan County Courthouse
117 S. Main Street
Monticello, Utah

Public Comment Period

The public is encouraged to review and comment on the alternatives being considered for Operable Unit III. Written public comments will be accepted on the Proposed Plan during a 45-day public comment period: December 1, 2003, through January 15, 2004. Comments must be postmarked by January 15, 2004. Comments will also be accepted by email through January 15, 2004.

Submit comments to

Art Kleinrath

Program Manager

U.S. Department of Energy

2597 B $\frac{1}{4}$ Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503

Email: monticello_comments@gjo.doe.gov

Telephone: (970) 248–6037

All comments and DOE's response to each comment will be part of the responsiveness summary in the Record of Decision, which is the document that will outline the Operable Unit III cleanup plan. The preferred alternative can change in response to public comments or new information. Members of the Federal Facilities Agreement for the Monticello Mill Tailings Site (DOE, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Utah Department of Environmental Quality) will cooperatively make the final decision for Operable Unit III. It is anticipated that the Record of Decision will be signed by April 1, 2004.

For Additional Information

Copies of the Proposed Plan, the Remedial Investigation Addendum/Focused Feasibility Study, and other documents related to Operable Unit III of the Monticello Mill Tailings Site are available for review at the following locations:

Monticello Repository Office
7031 South Highway 191, Monticello, UT 84535
Telephone: (435) 587–2098

U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room
2597 B $\frac{1}{4}$ Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503
Telephone: (970) 248–6089

Paul Mushovic (8EPR-F), Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
Telephone toll-free: 1–800–227–8917, ext. 6662

David Bird, Project Manager
State of Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Telephone: (801) 536–4219